(e) at least one video communication path

    (i) arranged for transport of audio and video signals,

        (1) originating at one of the signal sources,

        (2) to at least one of the display devices;

(f) at least one processor

    (i) capable of providing data conferencing signals; and

(g) at least one data communication path

    (i) arranged for transmission of

        (1) data conferencing visual information signals,

        (2) to one of the display devices,

wherein the system is configured to

    (i) reproduce video images and audio,

        (1) based on the transported video and audio signals,

        (2) at one of the display devices,

        (3) to define a video conference,

    (ii) display visual information,

        (1) based on the carried data conferencing signals,

        (2) at one of the display devices

        (3) to define a data conference, and

    (iii) store at least some of the data signals plus related audio and/or video signals

        (1) from the data and video conferences

        (2) for subsequent retrieval, and

        (3) synchronized play back

        (4) representing the relationship in which they were created.

57. The system of Claim 56, wherein

    (a) the visual information is at least one of:

        (i)   a snapshot;

        (ii)   information associated with an applications program; and

        (iii)   a real-time display of video images.

58. The system of Claim 56, wherein

    (a) either the data, audio or video signals

    (b) can be used

        (i)   as a timing reference

        (ii)   to synchronize

            (1) the play back or

            (2)   the storage

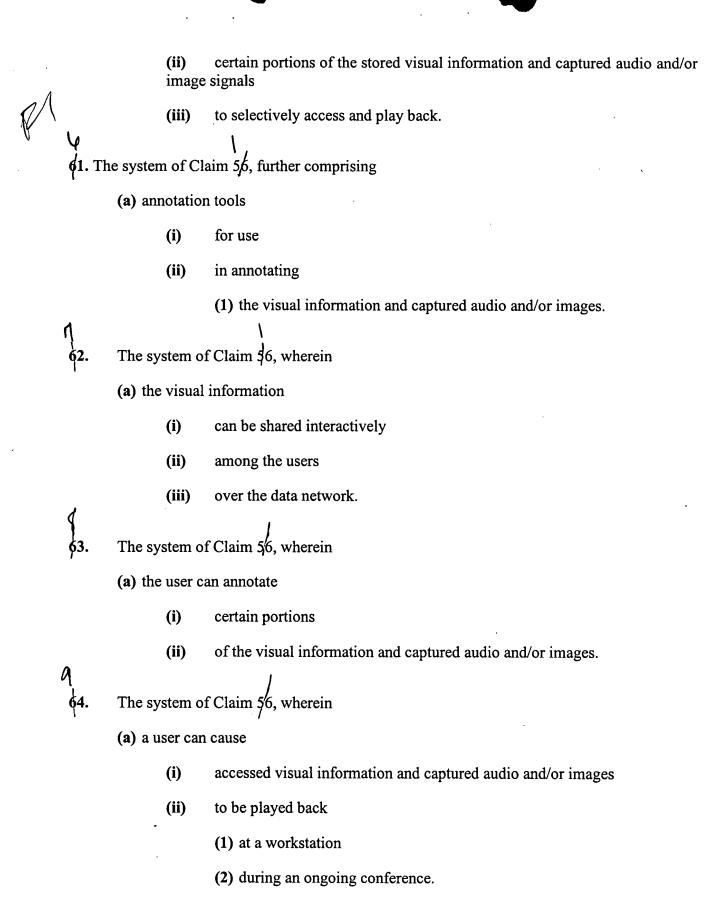   **(iii)**   as related components of a collaborative, multimedia conference.

59. The system of Claim 58, wherein

    (a) time codes

        (i)   can be assigned

            (1) to the data, audio and/or video signals

            (2) during storage

            (3) to facilitate synchronizing the play back.

60. The system of Claim 58, wherein

    (a) a user

        (i)   can use the time codes

(ii) certain portions of the stored visual information and captured audio and/or image signals

(iii) to selectively access and play back.

61. The system of Claim 56, further comprising

(a) annotation tools

(i) for use

(ii) in annotating

(1) the visual information and captured audio and/or images.

62. The system of Claim 56, wherein

(a) the visual information

(i) can be shared interactively

(ii) among the users

(iii) over the data network.

63. The system of Claim 56, wherein

(a) the user can annotate

(i) certain portions

(ii) of the visual information and captured audio and/or images.

64. The system of Claim 56, wherein

(a) a user can cause

(i) accessed visual information and captured audio and/or images

(ii) to be played back

(1) at a workstation

(2) during an ongoing conference.

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65. A method of making and storing a multimedia message, comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing

    (i) images and/or audio

    (ii) of a user

    (iii) at an associated workstation;

(b) creating

    (i) data signals,

        (1) representing visual information

        (2) other than the captured image

    (ii) during the step of capturing;

(c) reproducing

    (i) one or more of

        (1) the visual information and

        (2) captured image

        (3) at the workstation; and

(d) storing

    (i) the audio and/or video signals and

    (ii) the associated visual information

    (iii) for subsequent retrieval and playback

        (1) of the associated visual information and the captured image and/or audio

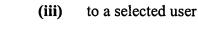   **(2)** in a synchronized manner.

66. The method of Claim 65, wherein

(a) the visual information is one of the group of:

    (i) a bitmap;

(ii)   information associated with an applications program;

(iii)   a real-time display of video images; and

(iv)   textual information.

67. The method of Claim 66, further comprising the step of

(a) providing annotation tools

    (i)   at the workstations

    (ii)   so that a user can annotate

        (1) the visual information

        (2) prior to the step of storing.

68. The method of Claim 66, further comprising the step of

(a) using

    (i)   at least one of the data, audio or video signals

        (1) as a timing reference

    (ii)   to synchronize the play back.

69. The method of Claim 66, further comprising the step of

(a) assigning time codes

    (i)   to the data, audio or video signals

    (ii)   to facilitate

        (1) synchronizing the play back.

70. The method of Claim 66, further including the step of

(a) causing

    (i)   the multimedia event

    (ii)   to be transferred

(iii)   to a selected user

(iv)   as a multimedia mail message

(b) such that a selected user

(i)   can initiate the play back

(1) of the visual information and captured audio and/or image

(2) at the selected user's associated workstation.

71.   The method of Claim 70, wherein

(a) the retrieval and play back

(i)   is initiated

(1) by the selected user

(2) during an ongoing conference.

72.   The method of Claim 71, wherein

(a) the stored visual information, captured audio and/or images

(i)   contains time codes and

(b) wherein

(i)   a user

(1) can use the time codes

(2) to selectively access and play back

(3) certain portions of the stored visual information captured audio and/or images.

73.   The method of Claim 71, wherein

(a) the selected user

(i)   can edit and/or annotate

(1) the certain portions of the visual information and captured audio and/or images.

74. A method of storing a collaborative multimedia event, comprising the steps of:

(a) capturing

       (i)   the images and/or audio

       (ii)   of a plurality of workstation users

       (iii)   at an associated plurality of workstations;

(b) generating

       (i)   data signals,

            (1) representing associated visual information other than the captured image,

       (ii)   during the step of capturing;

(c) interactively sharing,

       (i)   the visual information

       (ii)   among the plurality of participants;

(d) reproducing,

       (i)   one or more of the associated visual information, captured images and/or audio

       (ii)   at the workstations

       (iii)   as a collaborative multimedia event; and

(e) storing

       (i)   the data, audio and/or video signals

       (ii)   for subsequent retrieval and playback

            (1) of the associated visual information and captured images and/or audio;

       (iii)   in a synchronized manner.

75. The method of Claim 74, wherein

(a) the associated visual information is at least one of:

       (i)   a snapshot;

(ii) information associated with an applications program; and

(iii) a real-time display of video images.

76. The method of Claim 74, further comprising the step of

(a) using

    (i) either the data, audio or video signals

    (ii) as a timing reference

    (iii) to synchronize the play back.

77. The method of Claim 76, further comprising the step of

(a) assigning

    (i) time codes

    (ii) to the data, audio and/or video signals

    (iii) during storage

    (iv) to facilitate
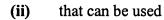
        (1) synchronizing the play back.

78. The method of Claim 77, further comprising the step of

(a) using

    (i) the time codes

    (ii) to selectively access and play back

        (1) certain portions of the stored visual information and captured audio and/or images.

79. The method of Claim 74, further comprising the step of

(a) providing

    (i) annotation tools

        (1) at each workstation

(ii) that can be used

(iii) to annotate the visual information.

80. The method of Claim 79, further comprising the step of

(a) editing and/or annotating

(i) the certain portions of the visual information and captured audio and/or images.

81. The method of Claim 74, further comprising

(a) playing back

(i) the visual information and captured audio and/or images

(ii) at the workstations

(iii) during an ongoing videoconference, data conference or combined videoconference and data conference.

82. A multimedia system, comprising:

(a) AV capture tools

(i) configured to capture

(1) images and/or audio

(2) of a workstation user;

(b) means for creating data signals,

(i) representing associated visual information

(1) other than the captured image, during the step of capturing;

(c) reproduction facilities

(i) configured to reproduce

(1) one or more of the associated visual information and captured image and/or audio at a workstation; and

(d) a storage system configured to

(i) store the data, audio and/or image signals so that

(1) one or more of them can subsequently be retrieved and

(2) the respective associated visual information and captured image and/or audio played back

(3) in a synchronized manner.

83. The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) the associated visual information is at least one of:

(i) a bitmap;

(ii) information associated with an applications program;

(iii) a real-time display of video images; and

(iv) textual information.

84. The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) the data, audio or image signals

(i) can be used

(ii) as a timing reference

(iii) to synchronize the play back.

85. The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) time codes

(i) can be assigned

(ii) to the data, audio or image signals

(iii) to facilitate synchronizing the play back.

86. The system of Claim 82, further comprising

(a) annotation tools,

(i) operable by a user

(ii)   to annotate

(iii)   the visual information, captured audio and/or image.

87.   The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) a user

(i)   can cause the multimedia event

(ii)   to be transferred

(1) to a selected user

(2) as a multimedia mail message

(3) such that the selected user

(4) can initiate

(5) the play back

(6) of the visual information and captured audio and/or image.

88.   The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) the retrieval and play back

(i)   can be initiated

(1) by a participant

(2) in an ongoing conference.

89.   The system of Claim 82, wherein

(a) the time codes

(i)   can be used

(ii)   to selectively access and play back

(1) certain portions of the stored visual information captured.

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